

some years ago, the California Medical Association appropriated funds in little less than lavish fashion. For instance, to revive an unhappy memory, the so-called "California Medical Economic Survey."

On the ground-work of studies and discussions, the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association brought into being, in December, 1938, an organization it then sponsored under the name of "California Physicians' Service."

The newly-organized activity was incorporated on February 2, 1939, and promptly arranged to take up its work.

At that time two hospitalization groups were also in operation, one with headquarters in Sacramento and the other in Oakland. These were followed by a third, with a major office in Los Angeles. These three hospitalization groups are now operating under the sanction of the national "Blue Cross" hospitalization organization.

For some time, however, it has become more and more evident that the objectives of California Physicians' Service, the Hospital Service of California, the Hospital Service of Southern California, and Intercoast Hospitalization Insurance Association might be greatly promoted if medical and hospitalization services could be brought into better coordination.

The annual report of the C.M.A. Council, to be found on page 158 in the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, refers to the Liaison Committee composed of representatives of these four organizations. To render possible some of the betterments under contemplation, it has been necessary for California Physicians' Service to make extensive changes in its corporate set-up. These matters received serious consideration at the meeting of the House of Delegates; and in due course, reports of actions taken will be given in the OFFICIAL JOURNAL. With C.P.S. now on a \$2.25 unit payment basis, indications point to even greater progress, if ways and means can be devised through which the four organizations each acting one with the other, will be able to attain maximum efficiency in service and results.

#### **"UNITED PUBLIC HEALTH LEAGUE": BORN OF A QUARTER CENTURY OF CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCE**

**The League Has Opened a Washington Office.**—If there are any members of the California Medical Association to whom the name "United Public Health League" is something new, they should orient themselves thereon, by scanning the items dealing with this newly-formed organization of six of the Western state medical associations, as printed in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (March, pages 103 and 109; and April, page 170).

It is not necessary to explain to California physicians the advantages of a public health league composed of members of the profession of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and allied

groups. The record of achievement by the Public Health League of California, in activities designed to maintain the highest quality and distribution of medical service, and to prevent the passage of laws that could have a detrimental influence on the best interests of the public health, has been one in which California physicians may take pardonable pride. Physicians, who believe in the value of coöperative effort for the attainment of legitimate objectives aiming to safeguard the health interests of citizens, have been and are in full accord with public health leagues.

The organization of the "United Public Health League" has been followed by the prompt establishment of an office in Washington, D. C.

In this current issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, excerpts from the Washington Letter of Mr. Ben H. Read, of California, who represents the League in Washington, appear on page 257. The introductory paragraph of Mr. Read's Washington Letter explains, in part, why the Washington Office was created:

"Pursuant to instructions from the Board of Directors, an office of the United Public Health League was opened in Washington, D. C., on March 14, 1944. The purpose of this office is to act as a two-way Information Bureau, serving national legislators from the States making up the membership of the League and, in turn, relaying information from Washington to members of the medical profession in those States."

As has been stated in articles referred to above, the United Public Health League aims to work in full harmony with all other national, regional and local agencies having, as their purpose, the promotion of the best interests of both the public health and the medical profession. Hence, the Washington Letter mentioned, and which is given in part in the current number, is worthy of perusal.

#### **TRIBUTE TO HOWARD C. NAFFZIGER, M. D.**

**The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease** for May, 1944 (Vol. 99, No. 5) was issued as a special number, dedicated to Howard C. Naffziger, M. D., Professor of Surgery, University of California Medical School, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, May 6.

The Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, Major General Norman T. Kirk, in his salutation stated of the physician so honored:

"His active participation in medical education and his wide experience and intensive interests in the field of Neurosurgery have permitted him, as Chairman of the Subcommittee for Neurologic Surgery of the National Research Council, to direct with special proficiency the assiduous activities and productive contributions of this organization."

From the greeting of Robert G. Sproul, President, University of California, may also be gleaned the following:

"Not only is Dr. Naffziger himself, together with two of his associates, constantly engaged in significant research in surgery of the brain, but much experimental